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10 September 1958

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

25X1 I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

OK
Communist China: Peiping has announced that the third and final phase of its troop withdrawal from Korea will begin on 25 September. The removal of the remaining 111,000 Chinese Communist troops in Korea is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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III. THE WEST

OK Finland-USSR: President Kekkonen of Finland has said that he is convinced that the Soviet attitude toward Finland is hardening. He fears that the incumbent Finnish Government will not be sufficiently "flexible," and may seek the formation early this winter of a new government. Such a government presumably would include the Communist-front Finnish People's Democratic League.

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DAILY BRIEF

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Chinese Communist Withdrawal From Korea

The Chinese Communists have announced that the third and final phase of their withdrawal from Korea will begin on 25 September. Remaining to be withdrawn during this phase are about 111,000 troops, including the Chinese Communist 1st Army, two artillery divisions, an antiaircraft artillery division, and a rocket-launcher division. Four armies and support units totaling about 200,000 troops have already been withdrawn from Korea. The 16th and 23rd Armies were withdrawn during the first stage completed on 25 April, and the 21st and 54th Armies withdrew during the second stage completed on 14 August.

The repositioning of the North Korean Army, which has a strength of about 334,000 men, has resulted in some loss of defensive depth, but the Chinese are maintaining strong forces across the border and have announced that they will return to North Korea if hostilities are resumed. There are at present no indications that the Communists intend to initiate hostilities in North Korea.

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Nasir May Request Western Aid to Build Aswan Dam

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Nasir indicated he may go ahead with plans for the dam without consulting the Sudan. He feels the Sudan's decision last July to divert part of the Nile waters for a local irrigation project constituted a unilateral abrogation of the 1929 agreement, and justified independent UAR action. The Sudan declared on 20 August it would no longer abide by the agreement, signed before Sudanese independence, and is seeking a renegotiation with the UAR in an effort to secure a more favorable division of the waters. The UAR press and radio vigorously attacked the Sudan's announcement, and Cairo has given no indication of willingness to meet the request for new talks. If it maintains this attitude, its influence in the Sudan will probably suffer.

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III. THE WEST

President Kekkonen Feels Finland Must Follow Flexible Policy Toward USSR

President Kekkonen of Finland is convinced that the USSR's attitude toward Finland is hardening and will become even harder in the coming year. There is no conclusive evidence to support his fear. Kekkonen feels, however, that Finland must be prepared to follow a flexible policy and to make "tactical concessions," [REDACTED]

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President Kekkonen and the powerful Agrarian party have certain reservations regarding the flexibility of the incumbent government and may consider it wise to replace it with another coalition. The present cabinet, formed on 29 August, is a coalition of Social Democrats, Agrarians, Conservatives, Finnish Liberals, and the Swedish People's party. The Communist-front Finnish People's Democratic League (SKDL), the largest party in parliament, and the splinter Social Democratic opposition are not in the government.

A new coalition would presumably include the Agrarians, the SKDL, and the Social Democratic opposition. Such a development is not likely to occur until early winter after the passage of a new farm-support bill. Despite the accommodation of some Agrarian leaders to the idea of including the SKDL, there would be strong opposition from the rank and file. [REDACTED]

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